

Some Conclusions of **SDIMI 2007**

Sustainable Development
Indicators Conference
Milos, 17 – 20 June 2007

SDIMI 2007

- Successful
- All stakeholders represented
(industry, research and academia, NGOs, local community, World Bank,)
- > 175 participants
- 35 nations
- ~ 90 papers
- Most papers of very good to excellent standard
- Highly interdisziplinär
- Very well organized

Excerpt of conclusions taken from Panel Chairs of:

- **Kay O'Reagan**, Corporate Partnerships Manager, Earthwatch Institute (Europe), United Kingdom
„Stakeholders Expectations“
- **Dirk Van Zyl**, Chair, Department of Mining Engineering, University of Nevada-Reno
„Integrating Sustainability in Capacity Building“
- **Deborah Shields**, Principal Mineral Economist, USDA Forest Service, USA
„Ensuring Sustainable Supply: A shared responsibility“

Major areas addressed

- Monitoring, measuring and reporting
- Information and education
- Integrating sustainability in capacity building
- Policy
- Disconnects
- Mine to market
- Recurring words – Buzz words

Monitoring, Measuring & Reporting

Statement:

- There are many approaches in use and under development
- Transparency, verification, legitimacy recur as issues
- We do not yet have consistency or consensus on 'good practice'

Conclusion/action:

- We need to use a range of tools and approaches for different audiences
- Other players (governments, NGOs) should also report on their SD contribution
- If we want to be believed, then what people experience of us, needs to align with what we say! (credibility)

Stakeholders Statements

Statement:

- Sustainable development is a core business activity and a ‘social licence to operate’ is critical for success
- ‘Host’ communities and their rights and customs should be respected and not seen as a problem
- Building understanding of SD issues in the wider community is a shared societal challenge
- Mine companies should not act in isolation – effects are cumulative
- Listening and learning needs to work both ways
- Encouragement that sector is committed to SD

Conclusion/action:

- Develop collaborative ways of working together and with others
- Work on “right brain skills”!

Stakeholders Expectations

Statement:

- Successful strategies include
 - Patience, time and trust building
 - Openness, honesty and transparency
 - Respect for traditional structures and practices
 - Delivering against promises

Information and Education

Statement:

- Transparency is essential
- Indicators, but information beyond indicators
- Sharing and facilitating transfer among communities of interest
- Mutual education

Conclusion/action:

- Need for knowledge base
- Need for increased access to information
- Need to share information internally as well as with communities of interest
- Incorporate sustainability into education, university level

Integrating Sustainability in Capacity Building

Statement:

- An important distinction is the difference between education **about** sustainable development and education **for** sustainable development
- Insights in capacity building for various interested parties using a variety of approaches and tools
- Small remote communities may not have access to computers and more direct approaches must be used
- Multiple concerns expressed about the idea of registration of sustainability professionals

Conclusion/action:

- Capacity building must be part of a long-term strategy
- Indicators must still be developed to successfully measure the success of capacity building

Policy

Statement:

- We are entering new era of policy revision
- Sustainability-based policies
- Emphasis on ensuring supply
- Dynamic processes
- New policy model, e.g. Eco-Mining

Conclusion/action:

- *Need for policy*
- *Need for policy coordination and prioritization*
- *Science-based policy*
- *Minerals sector should be pro-active instead of passive on policy issues*

Disconnects

Statement:

- Dynamic tension between societal need for minerals and the decisions, opinions, choices and directives of civil society and governments.
- Gaps to be bridged

Conclusion/action:

- *Need to communicate to civil society information about the source of materials*
- *Need for governments to provide funding for research and data collection, storage and dissemination.*
- *Actions beyond the traditional role of government – building trust and facilitating communication*

Mine to Market

Statement

- Firms learning what their customers want – product characteristics
- Competition between products based on superior environmental and social attributes
- Eco-profiles of materials
- Material stewardship – cradle to grave (or reincarnation)

Conclusion/action

- Reconsider how products are produced and marketed
- New and reformulated products
- Importance of reputation, inter-relationships

Recurring Words – Buzz Words

Statement:

- Life cycle assessment
- Footprints
- Capacity-building (with a new name?)
- Sector governance
- Continuous learning
- Sustainable resource management
- Sustainability models
- Multi-criteria modeling
- New approaches to mine design
- Technological advancements

Thank you

- The discussion on SD has become more economy-orientated
- Large companies and some of the smaller have realized the importance of the issue
- The sector of small and medium sized enterprises still has a long way to go
- Education is implementing the issue in their curricula
- NGOs and industry (might) have developed a better understanding for each other